Common Core of Data (CCD) Locale Code Methodology

Locale Code is a variable that NCES has created for general description, sampling, and other statistical purposes. It is based upon the location of school buildings, and in some cases may not reflect the entire attendance area or residences of enrolled students. The designation of each school's "locale" is based on its geographic location and population attributes such as density. School locale codes are coded by Census from school addresses in CCD files. The classifications are:

1 = <u>Large City</u>: A central city of a Core Based Statistical Area (CBSA) or Consolidated Statistical Area (CSA), with the city having a population greater than or equal to 250,000.

2 = <u>Mid-size City</u>: A central city of a CBSA or CSA, with the city having a population less than 250,000.

3 = <u>Urban Fringe of a Large City</u>: Any incorporated place, Census designated place, or non-place territory within a CBSA or CSA of a Large City and defined as urban by the Census Bureau.

4 = <u>Urban Fringe of a Mid-size City</u>: Any incorporated place, Census designated place, or non-place territory within a CBSA or CSA of a Mid-size City and defined as urban by the Census Bureau.

5 = <u>Large Town</u>: An incorporated place or Census designated place with a population greater than or equal to 25,000 and located outside a CBSA or CSA.

6 = <u>Small Town</u>: An incorporated place or Census designated place with population less than 25,000 and greater than or equal to 2,500 and located outside a CBSA or CSA.

7 = <u>Rural, outside CBSA</u>: Any incorporated place, Census designated place, or non-place territory not within a CBSA or CSA of a Large or Mid-size City and defined as rural by the Census Bureau.

8 = <u>Rural, inside CBSA</u>: Any incorporated place, Census designated place, or non-place territory within a CBSA or CSA of a Large or Mid-size City and defined as rural by the Census Bureau.

Why Did Schools Change?
Starting with the 2002-03 CCD file, the methodology was updated to incorporate 2000 Census population and geography information (e.g. using CSA/CBSA geographical entities instead of MSA entities). Prior to 2002-03 locale codes were assigned on the basis of information from the 1990 Census. Changes in the U.S. population from 1990 to 2000 affected the locale code assignments. Some schools that had been assigned a rural locale code in 2001-02 were no longer rural; other schools became rural in 2002-03 although they had not been rural before.

The 2002-03 locale code assignment program was unchanged from prior years. It substituted the concept of a "Core Statistical Area/Core Based Statistical Area" for the earlier concept of a "Metropolitan Statistical Area" because the 2000 Census data used the CSA/CBSA. The existing locale code program also used more current (2000) data about the U.S. population than had been available in the past.

How Are Locale Codes Assigned?
Locale Codes were assigned based on the classification of the place in which each school is located. First, the CCD file was checked for the existence of location addresses. Records where the location address was missing were coded based upon the mailing address.

The addresses were then extracted and run through a program to match them to Census TIGER® files. This match process produced geographic information that was used in the two methodologies that determines the locale code.

State coordinators were given the option of providing an INOUT flag to indicate whether a school is located inside or outside the city or town (incorporated place) limits. Not all states added INOUT flags. These flags were provided for schools that could not be matched to the block level to improve the accuracy of the geographic information that resulted from the Census TIGER® file match program. The complete methodology for schools not matched to the block level is considered the "old" methodology and is described in more detail following the "new" methodology description below.

Addresses that could be matched to a Census block could be coded with 100 percent accuracy. These cases are marked with a new imputation flag of "W".   The remaining addresses could not be assigned Census block information, and, thus, their associated locale codes had to be calculated using the old methodology. Those cases are marked with an old imputation flag of "O".

New Methodology Schools
Schools that could be matched to the Census block level were assigned locale codes through the steps described below.

1. Each address was checked for level of coding. Addresses that could not be coded to the block level were separated out for application of the old methodology.

2. The remaining addresses were checked for an incorporated place code.

3. If the unit had an incorporated place code the address was matched to a list of principal cities of metropolitan areas. Addresses that matched this list were, determined to be situated in, and therefore assumed to primarily serve, a principal city of a metropolitan area. The 2000 Census population of the city was then used to determine whether the unit was assigned a locale of "1" or "2."

4. At this point the remaining addresses were checked to determine if they were situated in a metropolitan area. Those units that were in a metropolitan area were then checked for urban/rural character. Units, which were determined to be rural, were assigned a locale code of "8." The remaining units were then assigned a locale code of "3" or "4" depending upon the population of the principal city of the metropolitan area in which they were situated.

5. All remaining units, i.e. those in an incorporated place that were not in a metropolitan area, were then matched with the population of that place. Units located in cities with a population of 25,000 or greater were assigned a code of "5." Units located in cities whose populations fell between 2,500 and 24,999 were assigned a code of "6."

6. Remaining units were coded as "7."

Old Methodology Schools
The units that could not be matched to the Census block level were coded using the old methodology. The old methodology worked as follows:

1. Units were checked for an incorporated place code. Those that matched the principal city code of a metropolitan area were coded as "1" or "2" depending upon the population of the city.

2. Units were then checked for metropolitan area status. Those units which were determined to be inside of a Metropolitan Area (MA) with an urban status were coded as "3" or "4" depending upon the population of the MA. Units within an MA with a rural status were coded as "8."

3. The remaining units that were situated in an incorporated place were then matched to the populations of those places. Those whose populations were 25,000 or greater were assigned a code of "5." Those whose populations were between 2,500 and 24,999 were assigned a code of "6." Units within a Metropolitan Statistical Area having a rural characteristic were coded as "8."

4. Remaining units that had sufficient addresses were assigned a code of "7."

5. Units that had critical missing address information had their locale codes pulled forward from the previous survey (where they existed.)

6. Finally units that could not be assigned a code under either method or if they had no city were assigned a code of "N".

Department of Defense Dependents (overseas) Schools were assigned a code of "N". Units located in outlying areas were assigned a code of "N" because the geographical and governmental structure of the areas do not fit into the definitional scheme used to derive the codes.

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